

REMARKS

Claims 3-31 are currently pending. Claims 3-5 have been amended and claims 1-2 have been cancelled. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 16-31 are allowed and claims 3-15 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has amended claims 3-5 to include the limitation of the base claim (claim 1). As such, claims 3-5 are allowable. In addition, claims 6-15 depend from claim 5 and are allowable.

The Examiner objected to Fig. 1 for incorrectly identifying item 38.

Applicant has amended the specification to correct a duplicate reference number. Specifically, the number "38" was used to identify both the foot board and the control levers. Applicant has changed the reference number identifying the foot board to "35". Fig. 1 has been amended to include a reference number 35 identifying the foot board and a reference number 38 identifying the control levers.

The Examiner also objected to the drawings for failing to show shaft 44, PTO 48, pulley 52, belt 56, slope S, tilt angle A, and horizontal plane H. Figs. 2 and 3 show all of these features. Applicant has amended Figs. 2 and 3 to include the reference numbers to clarify the figures. The drawing amendments made by the Applicant and the amendment to the specification do not add new matter. Rather, they clarify the specification and make it easier to read and understand.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rich (U.S. Patent No. 5,517,809) in view of Auto Mower from Husqvarna.

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached drawing sheets (two (2) total) include corrected formal drawings for Figs. 1-3. The sheets, which include Figs. 1-3, replace the original sheets that included Fig. 1-3.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1 and 2 rendering the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 moot.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3-31 are allowable.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Th J Otterlee', with a stylized, flowing script.

Thomas J. Otterlee
Reg. No. 48,652

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Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108

(262) 956-6523